

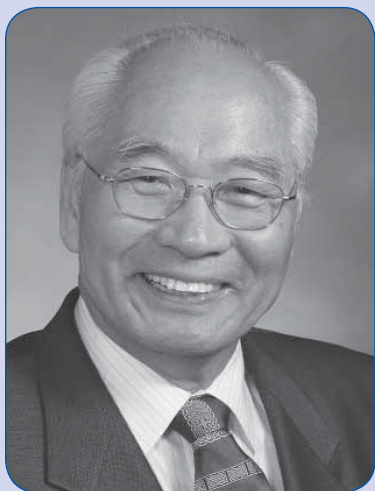


2007 *Legislative Report*

For the 21st District

Senator Paul Shin

Summer 2007



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Committees:

- Higher Education, Chair
- Agriculture & Rural Economic Development
- Economic Development, Trade & Management

Dear Neighbors,

The legislative session ended on time and on several high notes. We passed a two-year budget that raises no new taxes and puts \$724 million in reserves. It makes important investments in communities across Washington and ensures the future will remain bright for our families.

Among our many successes were bills to let voters decide whether to pass school levies with a simple majority; extending the math and science graduation requirement for the WASL until 2013 to give teachers and students more time to master the material; and changing the funding formulas for K-12 education to fix longstanding inequities.

As the new chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, I had three priorities: giving more students an opportunity to attend college; boosting financial resources; and creating a system that is accountable to students by ensuring their education aligns with career goals. We passed bills that did all this and more. We helped students save money on college loans. We increased opportunities for students to study math and science. We capped public college tuition. We increased the number of State Need Grants. And we reached out to middle school students to get them ready for higher education.

You see, I believe we must build a solid education foundation so our students can become productive and successful adults. Once they graduate from high school, college or a vocational program, we must make sure they are ready to enter the work force.

Recently I sent my first electronic newsletter. In addition to reducing paper waste and cutting costs, this format gives readers more frequent legislative updates. Signing up for the service is free and you will not get spammed with campaign materials or fundraising requests — and you can opt out at any time. To sign up, visit my Web page at <http://www.sdc.wa.gov/shin.htm> and click on the link “Subscribe to Sen. Shin’s e-newsletter.”

It is with great pride that I serve the 21st Legislative District. Please contact me if you have a concern or an opinion you’d like to share. My best wishes for a safe and wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Paul Shin

State Senator, 21st Legislative District

You think education is expensive — try ignorance

I believe in the value of an education. In today's world, simply graduating from high school isn't enough. Although some live on a minimum-wage salary, it is difficult to support a family or build a nest egg without a solid educational foundation.

As the new chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, I introduced and supported bills to match up education outcomes with the needs of business.



New four-year college

In the next 20 years, the population in our area is expected to increase by about 40 percent. Last year, a consultant team found that nearly 11,000 students in Snohomish, Island and Skagit counties would lack viable higher education options by 2025. With businesses on the lookout for qualified workers, Washington needs to invest in creating educational opportunities here. Building a four-year college in this region makes sense.

I worked to start a new four-year college in our area. I envisioned a model like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with a strong science focus, but liberal arts offerings, too. The Legislature earmarked \$4 million to buy land in Snohomish County and begin the process of establishing a new college. I am pleased we will soon be opening a branch campus of the University of Washington in our community.

Selected higher education bills signed into law

GET Ready for Math and Science. To create more math and science graduates, we allowed qualified college students in engineering, math, applied science and technology to receive scholarships if they agree to work in one of these fields for at least three years after graduation. I sponsored the Senate version of this bill.

Increasing financial options. For many students, securing a loan is the only way to afford college. We authorized the Washington Higher Education Facilities Authority to issue student loan revenue bonds. This will save loan recipients an average of \$5,000 over the loan's term.

High-demand fields. Many industries, such as aerospace and biotechnology, are eager for college graduates. We set up a committee to study how to increase the number of graduates in these fields. We also formulated a plan to increase capacity at our state's colleges and universities by 2020, allowing more students to pursue math- and science-related degrees.

Capping tuition rates. To get a handle on rising tuition costs, we capped annual tuition increases at 7 percent for the University of Washington and Washington State University; 5 percent for Western, Eastern, Central and The Evergreen State College; and 2 percent for the community colleges.

State Need Grant. Many working adults cannot afford to attend college on a part- or full-time basis. We extended the State Need Grant Program to students attending less than half time, giving them the financial support needed to graduate.

Passport to College Promise Program. This six-year pilot allows foster care youth between the ages of 16 and 26 an opportunity to go to college. Recipients must have been in foster care for a minimum of six months since age 16; be a Washington resident; and be enrolled in an institution of higher education. The scholarship is available for up to five years or until a student reaches age 26, whichever comes first.

Fueling the economic engine

How does Washington define economic prosperity? It's when we reach out to global partners, foster business development, invest in brain power and preserve our area's natural resources. The economic engine is automatically fueled when we support people and ideas.

Selected economic development bills signed into law:

Microenterprise development. Starting a new business is tough. We created one of the top microenterprise programs in the nation by helping these small, startup companies with training and technical assistance.

Innovation Partnership Zones. Washington will join a few select states that identify geographic areas of innovation where researchers, training facilities and companies work together to develop the products that will drive the economy of the future. These grants require local support and matching funds, and will be used to facilitate the commercialization of cutting-edge research.

Recruiting academic stars. In the same way that colleges recruit the best athletes, Washington will recruit the best intellects from around the world to our universities. We will use this proven strategy to turn our universities into economic engines.

Encouraging capital investment in distressed areas. We authorized cities, towns, counties, public corporations and port districts to create partnerships and enter into public or private agreements to implement the federal New Markets Tax Credit Program. This program authorizes tax credits to businesses for up to \$15 billion if they agree to invest in low-income and economically distressed areas through community development entities. No state funds are used.

Budgets

Operating budget

We passed the two-year operating budget with no new tax increases and a reserve of \$724 million. We created a rainy day fund to help us get through tough economic times. It's a budget that makes prudent investments in education, social and health services, public safety, and environmental protections.

Capital budget

The construction budget included a number of district projects, including:

Edmonds Center for the Arts	\$1,000,000
South County Senior Center	200,000
Compass Health, Lynnwood/Edmonds Outpatient Center	37,000
YMCA of Snohomish County, Mukilteo.....	385,000
Mukilteo Boys and Girls Club	250,000
Morningstar Cultural Center	300,000
Somerset Village.....	200,000
N. Lynnwood Park aquatic playground.....	176,000
Mukilteo Lighthouse Park phase 1	300,000
Daleway Park aquatic playground	163,000
Shell Creek property (riparian protection).....	100,000
City of Mukilteo	489,600
Edmonds Community College (repairs, renovations)	13,610,255

Transportation budget

The transportation budget keeps ongoing safety improvement projects on schedule and honors voter promises from both the 2005 Nickel Package and 2003 Transportation Partnership Act. Major projects in our area include:

Ferry preservation.....	\$9,955,000
I-5/164 th Street S.W. to SR 526 HOV and interchange modifications	7,004,000
I-5/124 th Street S.W. bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing.....	1,323,000
I-5/196 th Street (SR 524) interchange build ramps.....	7,202,000
I-5/Mountlake Terrace freeway station.....	10,529,000
I-5/S. Everett freeway station/ 112 th Street S.E. transit direct access.....	14,431,000
I-5/SR 525 interchange improve access and traffic flow	2,168,000

Thanks to our pages for their outstanding service this session



Lyle Brunner



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Juleigh Duke



Rhianna McDonald



Mercedes Popp

Interested in being a page? Visit www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Administration/PageProgram/ for information and an application.

SPS #07-6589 lam 6/07

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